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## Women in Engineering Institute Held at the University of Dayton

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## university of dayton

DAYTON, Ohio, June 27, 1974 --- One per cent of the engineers in the US right now are women. "I think when it gets up to 15 per cent, we will be routinely accepted and there will be no need for a seminar like this," said Ms. B.K. Krenzer, an electronics engineer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

She was speaking of the Women in Engineering Seminar Institute held June 17 through 21 at the University of Dayton where 40 young high school women heard of the advantages of a career in engineering.

Recruiting was done by Ms. Carol Shaw, professor of engineering technology. "At first I found it hard to understand why women who had done well in high school math and science courses still were scared of engineering," she says.

She believes now she has found an answer. "Engineering just has such a male image and counselors haven't been mentioning it as a possibility for young women," she said.

The seminar sponsored by UD and 16 Dayton area industries attempted to erase that image. The seminar participants had a chance to talk with women engineers. The young women also accepted invitations from Dayton area industries to tour their facilities.

Advantages highlighted by women engineers at a panel discussion Tuesday included good pay, non-routine activities and a chance to use a math and science background.

Disadvantages were not slighted. On the other hand, Dean James McGraw, engineering technology assured the young women: "True there aren't many women in engineering yet. But, still it would be pretty hard to find a prof who hasn't taught at least one woman. And deans are actively recruiting women."

Women engineers serving on the panel offered various perspectives to seminar participants.

Ms. Betty J. Yost, an electrical engineer employed by the Ledex Corp. in Dayton answered the question, "Why did you want to become an engineer."

"Well, I wanted to and nobody said no," said Ms. Yost. She's not sorry. "I like to be busy and I stay busy. Our products are used in everything from garbage trucks, computers and space shots." She also claims she has not encountered discrimination.

Ms. Lee Rock, a support systems engineer at Wright Patterson Air Force, claims she became more aware of discrimination when she first talked to members of the President's Committee on Women in the Armed Services when they made their inspection tour at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. "Yes, there is discrimination. Much more than I was personally aware of or had experienced," she said. She added, that the principle disadvantage of her job at a military installation is that she gets a new boss every three years. "I have to train a boss every three years. But, I survive, I think."

Humor gets Ms. Jean Hoppert, a chemical engineer at Proctor and Gamble, through the day. "They don't mean to discriminate. They just don't know. Fortunately, I enjoy using my people skills as much as my engineering skills," she said. Her husband takes his wife's still unusual occupation in his stride, even when he received an invitation as Mrs. Hoppert to join the Manager's Wives Club at P and G.

The balanced perspective offered by the seminar seemed to generate enthusiasm among the youthful participants.



"My favorite subjects are math and science. And the pay is good. I've got lots of encouragement from Dr. Kraft," said Ms. Beth Kerney, a senior at Fairborn Baker High School. Dean David Kraft, UD school of engineering, had given Ms. Kerney an interview arranged by her math teacher who is a personal friend of Krafts.

Karen Hudson, a junior at Stebbins High School, said at midweek in the seminar that she was turning more and more to engineering as a career choice. "For a while I wanted to be a lawyer but things seem pretty dismal in that area," she said.

Things aren't available in the area of engineering, according to Prof. Shaw. "We're getting the word out to guidance counselors. Industries want women and colleges want women."

Also there are special scholarships available to women who choose engineering, she added.